

VENONA

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USSR

Ref. No.: 3/NBF/T1918

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Copy No.: 204

1. MOSCOW COMPLAINS OF POOR WORK WITH THE PROBATIONER NETWORK IN SHIPS
2. "VITALIJ", "KHARON" (1944)

From: MOSCOW

To: SAN FRANCISCO[a]

No: 276

29th August 1944

[b]

In July in PORTLAND a stoker, Andrej Kuz'mich SOKOV, deserted from the S.S. "YAKUT". The American authorities helped to catch him and, with the assistance of "VITALIJ"[i], he was put back in the ship and on 2nd August was handed over in PETROPAVLOVSK. You did not inform us of the fact that SOKOV had deserted and had been caught. The case of SOKOV is yet another instance of feebleness[c] in preventing desertion and it is primarily poor work with the probationer network[STAZHERNAYA SET'] in ships which accounts for this. Since November 1943 the names of more than 500 probationers in ships[SUDOVYE STAZHERY] have, at various times, been given to "KHARON"[ii] and then to you in order that liaison may be established with them. Yet the information about the probationers [STAZHERY] has not even been reported in good time to "VITALIJ" and the other group leaders. As a result of this they do not liaise[d] with the probationers in PORTLAND and other ports. The staff[SOSTAV] of probationers and residents does not change basically - this is particularly true of the latter -[e] and consequently, having our information about them,

[60 groups unrecovered]

extradition of deserters, which, however, is not done in most cases. Liaison with the cadre workers[KADROVIKI] must be put right. Pass on our reports on probationers in good time and make maximum use of them in checking up on crews and averting acts of treason.

No. 59
29th August

SEMEN[iii]

Distribution:

[Continued overleaf]

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Notes: [a] Also sent to OTTAWA and NEW YORK.

[b] Addressee not sent.

[c] Literally "weak work".

[d] Or "there is no liaison".

[e] Literally: "The staff of probationers and in particular of residents is basically stable..."

Comments: [i] VITALIJ: Pavel Kuz'mich REVIZOROV.

[ii] KHARON: i.e. "CHARON", Grigoriy Markovich KHEJFETS, Vice-Consul in SAN FRANCISCO.

[iii] SEMEN: Unidentified covername.

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